

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CHESTERFIELD CANAL PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE STEERING GROUP** held at the Westthorpe Business Innovation Centre, Killamarsh on Thursday 11th March 2010.

Derbyshire County Council

Mr M Dowson, Ms G Gregory and Mr P Storey

Nottinghamshire County Council

Councillor Mrs E Yates and Mr A Wickham

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Councillor Mrs J Whysall and Mr P Cassy

Bassetlaw District Council

Ms S Withington

Chesterfield Borough Council

Councillor P Proctor and Mr M Shewring

North East Derbyshire District Council

Councillor H Laws, Ms H Fairfax and Ms L Chapman

Chesterfield Canal Partnership

Dr G Coles and Mr S Reaney

Chesterfield Canal Trust

Mr R Stonebridge and Mr D Trickett

Inland Waterway Association

Mr J Baylis

Hyder Consulting (For Agenda Item 5 Only)

Mr G Webber and Mr P Moss

(Mr J Baylis, representing the IWA, took the Chair for the first three items on the agenda)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Jackson (Derbyshire County Council), Councillor I Jones (Bassetlaw District Council), Mr E Green (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust), Ms F Clarke (Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield & Mansfield), Mr M Bloomfield (Chesterfield Canal Trust) and Mr J Nuttall (British Waterways).

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH OCTOBER 2009

The Minutes were accepted as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising which were not covered by the agenda.

4. ELECTION OF ESG CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

After some discussion it was agreed that Councillor Mrs E Yates of Bassetlaw District Council be elected as temporary Chair of the ESG until a replacement Chair from BDC was appointed. It was also agreed that Councillor Yates be appointed as Vice Chair of the ESG as the elected member from Nottinghamshire County Council. These appointments would be effective for the next twelve months.

5. MARINA DEMAND & LOCATION STUDY BY HYDER CONSULTING

Mr G Webber and Mr P Moss presented the draft results of this study which had been commissioned jointly by Bassetlaw District Council and the Chesterfield Canal Partnership.

The study had been undertaken by a core team of three people and set out to assess the demand for moorings on the Chesterfield Canal should the opportunity to create additional moorings arise. The study recognised that the marina at Shireoaks was operating at its practical capacity and, because of the unique geographical position of the Chesterfield Canal, it had been necessary to investigate national trends and parameters in order to assess the market. There were two types of moorings with different needs and priorities; residential and leisure users. Compared with the overall BW network, the number of existing moorings on the Chesterfield Canal was below the national average.

The study had identified three sites with high potential; the Western Gateway at Worksop, near the junction of the A57 and the Lock Keeper public house, Retford East and the Hop Pole Inn sites, both in Retford. A further two sites with medium potential were identified in Misterton. In terms of a preferred short-term site which could be operational within 5 years, the Hop Pole was the favourite. In the time scale of 5 to 15 years, the Western Gateway and Misterton East offered the best opportunities. Improved town centre moorings at Worksop and Retford also required consideration. The capital cost of a marina capable of accommodating circa 160 boats was estimated between £1.35 and £1.5 million and this would generate an annual local spend of some £400,000.

Hyder Consulting recommended the production of a "Marina Investment Guide" specifically tailored to the Chesterfield Canal as a means of encouraging external investment.

The draft report was submitted to BDC on the 11th March 2010. A discussion meeting with BDC planners would take place shortly and the final report, which would also identify funding options, would be published before the end of the current financial year.

The Chair thanked Hyder Consulting for their excellent presentation.

6. YEAR END REPORT ON THE CCP WORK PROGRAMME 2009-10

GC tabled a report summarising the Work Programme for 2009/10.

GC characterised the year as one of steady but uneven progress; some smaller projects, such as Hollingwood Lock House, had made little visible progress whilst others, such as Phase1 of the Northern Loop Road at Staveley which included bridges over the canal, had been completed. Behind the scenes a great deal of progress had been made on securing design and legal frameworks, for example planning permission had recently been obtained for the Staveley Town Basin and the application for the Chesterfield Waterside Project would shortly go before the Planning Committee at CBC.

A lot of work had been undertaken in order to raise the profile of the Chesterfield Canal and the Canal Trust had made a positive contribution to this. The Inland Waterway Association now recognised that the Chesterfield Canal was among the top 5 canal projects which were "ready for funding". HF reminded the meeting that the line of the canal was in the process of being secured in the LDF of NEDDC.

It was agreed that the delivery of the Work Programme be noted.

7. PROPOSED CCP WORK PROGRAMME 2010-2012

GC tabled a report giving details of the proposed Work Programme for the two-year period from 2010 to 2012.

GC explained that it had now been confirmed by both the Heritage Lottery and Big Lottery Fund that the timetable for funding major projects post the London Olympic Games in 2012 would be as follows:-

- 2011-Projects to be submitted for funding
- 2012-Projects accepted for funding
- 2013-Construction work to begin

The Partnership's Work Programme had been designed to fit in with this timetable.

GC emphasised that land acquisition would be a major issue facing the Partnership and a robust legal framework to deliver the project would be needed both to address the concept of "Risk Management" and to satisfy the requirements of the major funding bodies. In these circumstances, therefore, it would be necessary to resolve the legal framework for the Partnership **before** the submission of funding bids. Education and training programmes were important in order to demonstrate the wider credentials of the Chesterfield Canal and there was an urgent need to increase the level of networking with funding bodies, patrons and other influential organisations. It would be necessary, therefore, for the Partnership to have a critical look at the staffing resources which would be required to formulate significant funding bids. GC said he would present a more detailed action plan at the next ESG.

It was agreed that the proposed Work Programme be formally adopted.

8. CCP BUDGET REPORT

GC tabled the report for the Partnership's budget for 2009/10 which showed an under spend on budgeted expenditure mainly due to ecological surveys which would be undertaken during the next financial year. There had been some misunderstanding, however, on contributions and to balance income and expenditure for 2009/10 would require a draw on the Reserve Fund.

GC then presented the proposed budget for next year and emphasised the point that it would not be possible after March 2011 to make further demands on the Reserve Fund because of the requirement to hold sufficient funds to cover possible redundancy costs for Partnership staff. For the financial year 2011/12, therefore, it would be necessary to further increase contributions or obtain funding from other sources to enable the Partnership to continue operating in its current form. GC suggested that the funding issue be discussed at the next TOG meeting with a view to submitting proposals in due course to the ESG and HL said that local authority representatives needed to confirm the level of contributions for 2010/11 as matter of urgency and to re-enforce the importance of the restoration of the Chesterfield Canal both to local communities and to the overall regeneration of the area.

It was agreed that the Development Manager's recommendations, a-g, be accepted.

9. NEXT NAVIGATION EAST

With the aid of a projector GC presented a verbal report to the meeting on Next Navigation East. He explained that the final restoration project for the Chesterfield Canal had been divided into two sections, east and west, with the western section covering the route from Staveley to Killamarsh and the eastern section from Killamarsh to the eastern portal of the Norwood Tunnel at Kiveton Park.

The Next Navigation East report was presented as a consultation draft. It consisted of some 28 chapters which set out the case for restoration, the community and environmental context, the design of key structures together with indicative designs, a summary of community engagement and the core costing for the project. The report, after undergoing a period of consultation, would form the basis of submissions to major funding bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The restoration work would be done in stages over a period of time to ensure that the cost of the individual sections was within the funding scope of the Heritage Lottery Fund. The work would be undertaken by professional civil engineers and approved contractors but there would be some opportunities for volunteers to contribute under the close supervision of qualified engineers. The cost of restoring this section was estimated at £26 million at today's prices but this could be reduced by up to 30%. In GC's opinion, the time frame for a realistic and deliverable restoration programme was 10/15 years.

The consultation draft of the Next Navigation East report was available on a CD ROM which contained all the appendices; other supporting documents were also available. CD ROMs were distributed at the meeting to members of the Partnership and the representative of RMBC was given two copies of the CD ROM, a written copy of Volume 1 of the report, the appendices and written copies of all the appropriate background and supporting reports. GC requested comments, if possible, by 4th June 2010, and confirmed that the final draft of the report would be ready for the Festival in July 2010.

After some discussion it was agreed that a special meeting of the ESG would be held in June 2010 and the Chair would write individually to the Chief Executive of each Local Authority through which the canal passed asking for comments on the report within a 12 week consultation period. In the meantime, GC would approach the individual authorities to decide the most effective way of meeting with Leaders and Chief Executives to discuss the implications of the Next Navigation East report.

10. DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

GC tabled a summary of developments on a number of canal projects based on submissions from members of the Technical Officers Group. AW added that 5 staff had been appointed to the Idle and Trent Valley Landscape Project; the staff would be based with BW at Newark and the value of the project was some £3 million. PS confirmed that work on the Staveley Town Basin would commence in April.

It was agreed that the Development Update report be noted.

11. FUTURE FORM OF THE PARTNERSHIP

GC presented a discussion paper for the ESG to authorise officers to begin to explore what options were available to enable the Partnership to move forward against the background of a potential future expenditure of some £35 million. RS said that the Partnership needed to assess its delivery mechanism because the Heritage Lottery Fund would require assurances on governance before funding was contemplated.

The officer recommendations were accepted and it was agreed that GC would establish a small working party through the Technical Officers Group.

12. CHESTERFIELD CANAL TRUST

RS tabled an update report from the Chesterfield Canal Trust and confirmed that the Trust's membership was now in excess of 1,000. The final draft of the Community Interest Company would be submitted for approval to the Trust's Annual General Meeting on Thursday 18th March 2010.

The meeting noted the report from the CCT and congratulated them on the increasing level of membership.

13. IWAC REPORT ON PARTNERSHIP WORKING

GC informed the Executive that the Inland Waterways Advisory Council's report on "Partnership Working", due to be published in April 2010, would use the Chesterfield Canal Partnership as a model of best practice in the waterways field.

The meeting noted the Development Manager's verbal report.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RS explained that DCC provided goods and services for Partnership staff in addition to their financial contribution because they acted as the "host" authority in terms of staff employment. DCC, however, had recently held a Single Status job evaluation exercise for all members of staff which had impacted on the salary level of the Partnership's

Development Manager. It was unfortunate that DCC had not consulted with the Partnership on this issue and if the appeal by the Development Manager was successful there would be an impact on the Partnership's budget and on other members.

After some discussion it was agreed that the Chair of the ESG would write to DCC on this matter; AW would liaise between the Chair, other members of the ESG and members of the TOG.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

After some discussion it was agreed that the date of the next two meetings of the ESG would be as follows:-

- **Thursday 10th June 2010 at a DCC venue to be arranged by GC.**
- **Thursday 28th October 2010 at the Retford Enterprise Centre**

It was also agreed that in the future there would be four (4) meetings of the ESG per year in order for members to be able to deal with the increasing work load. Three (3) of these meetings would take place in the mornings and would last for a maximum of 2 hours whilst the fourth meeting, which would take place in the summer months and include a field trip, would last all day.

GC/SR-18/3/2010